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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present Application. No claims have been canceled, Claims 7, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 25 have been amended, and no claims have been added, leaving Claims 1-25 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Claims 7, 19, and 25 have been amended to correct a typographical error and not for reasons pertaining to patentability. The second occurrence of "is" has been amended to "in." Support for these amendments can at least be found in the claims as originally filed.

Claim 14 has been amended to correct typographical errors. The term "dissolving" has been amended to "reacting" and the term "the oxide material" has been amended to "the oxide." Support for these amendments can at least be found in Claim 14 as originally filed as well as in Paragraphs [0022] and [0023] as originally filed.

Claim 15 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The term "the fluoride salt" has been amended to "the molten fluoride salt." Support for this amendment can at least be found in Claim 15 as originally filed as well as in Paragraphs [0019] and [0022] as originally filed.

Claim 17 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The term "apply" has been amended to "applying." Support for this amendment can at least be found in Claim 15 as originally filed as well as in Paragraph [0021] as originally filed.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments or new claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 7, 19, and 25 since they contain a typographical error. Each of these claims contains the word "is" instead of "in". Applicants have amended the claims to correct the second occurrence of "is" to recite "in."

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 14 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

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applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner has stated that the following limitations "said dissolving" in line 1 and "the oxide material" in line 4 of Claim 14 lack proper antecedent basis. The Examiner has stated that the limitation "the fluoride salt" in line 1 of Claim 15 also lacks proper antecedent basis. Applicants have amended Claims 14 and 15 to ensure proper antecedent basis for the above-described limitations. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed Claims 1-13 and 21-25 over the cited prior art. Applicants further note that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 14 and 16-20 would be allowable if amended to overcome the § 112 rejection for lacking proper antecedent basis. Since the Claims 14 and 16-20 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the § 112 rejection and an allowance of the claims.

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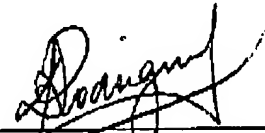
It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection(s) and rejection(s) and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0868.

Respectfully submitted,

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